



The Sustainable Pioneer

http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/

July 2004

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HOW DO YOU GET TO WORK?

Sustainable NREL recently polled NREL employees regarding their commuting habits. True to form, many chose alternative forms of commuting to and from work. Out of the total 375 respondents, 132 selected alternative modes of transportation (biking, walking, carpooling, or public transit). Additionally, 27 of the respondents drove alternative fuel vehicles (hybrids, diesels or bio-diesels).

The Laboratory understands the value of alternative commuting and has implemented programs and incentives that reflect this understanding. For instance, the EcoPass is free to fulltime NREL employees. Additionally, for our bike commuters, there are enclosed bike lockers and showers at various areas throughout the campus. In the future, Sustainable NREL is going to expand on these benefits by creating an on-line resource to facilitate carpooling as well as on-line bike trail maps. Another focus will be implementing programs that address the safety of our bike commuters on the road.

Stay tuned! We'll let you know when these programs are up and running.



Quick Tip:

Thinking about Biking to Work?

Many NREL employees have been consistently biking to work for years. However, if you're a novice, there are some things you need to know. First, make sure that your equipment is in good shape. Get a tune-up on that bike that's been sitting in your garage. Also, make sure that you have a helmet, mirror and reflectors. Additionally, it is important to know the rules of the road. Check out BicycleSafe.com: <http://bicyclesafe.com>. It gives you several collision scenarios and how to be prepared for them. Finally, get on that bike, have fun and be safe.

This year's Bike to Work Day was a huge success!



Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) hosts Bike to Work Day each year during Bike to Work month. On Wednesday June 23, there were Breakfast stops set up all over Denver to promote biking as a viable alternative to commuting. This year, NREL had 74 participants registered. Additionally, the Laboratory hosted one of the breakfast stops located by the Denver West Marriott hotel.

There were a total of 17, 665 commuters region-wide that participated. That translates into 263,279 miles traveled. Sustainable NREL and the Wellness Committee is proud to help promote this activity. And we hope to see you all out there next year!

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NREL's fleet vehicles lead the way when it comes to petroleum reduction. Recently Transportation Technologies and Systems completed an analysis of petroleum reduction among the DOE fleets in FY03. NREL had a 67% reduction (compared to the 1999 baseline) vs. the overall DOE reduction of 4.7%. Nice Job to all of our fleet vehicle operators and management staff!

